



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
IMMIGRATION AND NATURALIZATION SERVICE
10 W. JACKSON BLVD.
CHICAGO, IL 60604

NEWS RELEASE

Monday, July 29, 2002

Mexican National Sentenced for Identity Document Fraud

Chicago, IL - Brian R. Perryman, District Director for the Immigration and Naturalization Service (INS) in Chicago, together with Patrick J. Fitzgerald, United States Attorney for the Northern District of Illinois, announced the sentencing of a Mexican national for operating a document fraud ring in the city of West Chicago.

Gerardo Garcia-Juarez, age 31, an undocumented alien from Mexico residing at 646 South Neltnor in West Chicago, was sentenced July 26 by U.S. District Court Judge Robert W. Gettleman to 21 months in prison.

Garcia-Juarez, a taxicab owner/operator, would take orders for counterfeit identity documents from his taxi and then return to his apartment on South Neltnor to produce the documents. Once the documents were manufactured, Garcia-Juarez would set up a meeting with his clients to deliver the order for a fee of \$150.00.

The arrest of Garcia-Juarez was the result of a joint investigation conducted by the INS and the West Chicago Police Department that began in October 2001. During the course of the investigation, which culminated in the service of a search warrant at Garcia-Juarez's residence February 12, 2002, INS agents seized 241 counterfeit social security cards and green cards. Garcia-Juarez was making these documents and selling them for \$150 a set to undocumented aliens.

Counterfeit documents sell on the street in the Chicago area for between \$100 to \$150 per set, which includes a false social security card and green card, and are routinely manufactured and sold to undocumented aliens who purchase such documents to obtain employment.

Since 1998, INS agents in Chicago have confiscated more than 70,000 fraudulent documents from illegal document manufacturers and vendors. Garcia-Juarez will be surrendered to the custody of INS upon completion of his sentence to be placed in deportation proceedings.

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